25

5

What is Claimed is:

1. An information service system comprising:

an in-vehicle unit mounted in a vehicle;

a computer installed at a specific location other than the vehicle; and

a server linked to the in-vehicle unit and the computer via a network.

wherein the in-vehicle unit and the computer each contain map data,

the server contains additional information to be presented on maps and is configured to transmit the additional information as data in specific format to the invehicle unit or the computer, and

the in-vehicle unit and the computer are configured to present the individual maps by adapting each piece of the data in specific format transmitted from the server to the associated piece of map data and then adding the information related to the piece of data in specific format onto the associated map.

2. The information service system of Claim 1, wherein

the in-vehicle unit or the computer contains pieces of image data embeddable in an HTML document in addition to the pieces of map data,

the server contains pieces of map selection data each of which specifies a map to be selected, pieces of coordinate

10

data each of which specifies a point where the additional information is to be presented on the selected map, pieces of HTML document data, and pieces of image selection data each of which specifies an image to be embedded in the HTML document and is configured to transmit the map selection data, coordinate data, HTML document data and image selection data to the in-vehicle unit or the computer, and

the in-vehicle unit or the computer is configured to present the individual maps by selecting a specified map from among the pieces of map data based on the associated piece of map selection data transmitted from the server and adding the information to a specified point on the selected map based on the associated piece of coordinate data transmitted from the server and present the HTML document by selecting a specified image from among the pieces of image data based on the associated piece of image selection data transmitted from the server and adding the selected image to a specified point on the associated piece of HTML document data transmitted from the server.

20

25

3. A server linked to an in-vehicle unit and a computer via a network, the in-vehicle unit being mounted in a vehicle and containing map data, the computer being installed at a specific location other than the vehicle and containing map data,

wherein the server contains additional information to be presented on maps and is configured to transmit the

10

additional information as data in specific format to the invehicle unit or the computer via the network.

4. An in-vehicle unit that is mounted in a vehicle and contains map data and a processing program of performing processing with the use of the map data,

wherein the in-vehicle unit contains a plug-in for the processing program and is linked via a network to a server containing additional information to be presented on maps, and

the plug-in is configured to adapt data in specific format corresponding to the additional information having been transmitted from the server to the processing program.

5. A record medium on which a program which can be read out by an in-vehicle unit is recorded, the in-vehicle unit being mounted in a vehicle and linked via a network to a server containing additional information to be presented on maps,

wherein the record medium contains map data, a 20 processing program of performing processing with the use of the map data, and a plug-in for the processing program, and

the plug-in is configured to adapt data in specific format corresponding to the additional information having been transmitted from the server to the processing program.

A record medium on which a program is recorded which can be read out by a computer, the computer being installed at a

25

specific location other than a vehicle and linked via a network to a server containing additional information to be presented on maps,

wherein the record medium contains map data, a processing program of performing processing with the use of the map data, and a plug-in for the processing program, and

the plug-in is configured to adapt data in specific format corresponding to the additional information having been transmitted from the server to the processing program.

7. The record medium of Claim 6, wherein the map data, processing program and plug-in are software bundled to the computer.